

NOTES ON *PLANORBIS* AND ITS SUBDIVISIONS.

By Dr. WILLIAM HEALEY DALL.

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IN the last number of the Proceedings of this Society there are some observations by Mr. A. S. Kennard on *Planorbis* and some of its subdivisions, which suggest the mention of some data which have accumulated since the writing of my "Land and Freshwater Mollusca of Alaska."

We have in the Jeffreys Collection, now in the U.S. National Museum, his original types of *P. glaber* of 1834, as well as those which served as the types for the "British Conchology." They are of the same species, and identical with *P. laevis*, Alder. Some of the former are milky white, though not 'dead shells.' That Jeffreys sent Alder a young *P. albus* by mistake for a specimen of his new species does not invalidate the species.

I have compared *P. glaber* with *P. parvus*, Say, and find that what I have always regarded as the typical *parvus* is smaller, flatter, with a more nearly circular and less oblique aperture. The vertical diameter of *parvus* of the same size is decidedly less than in *glaber*. But among over two hundred lots of *parvus* I find quite a number which seem very similar to *glaber*, and it may be that in this country we have confused the two. I have not time to study these small freshwater forms, which are doubtless in need of a severe critical revision.

Mr. Kennard seems to doubt the propriety of the sections *Diplodiscus* and *Paraspira*. I hold no brief for the importance of any of these sections of *Planorbis*, but if we adopt some, in order that the divisions shall be of as nearly equal weight as possible, these were needed. If the whole, after due anatomical investigation, proved to be merely aids for the convenient assorting of the uncomfortably large number of species, I should not regret the conclusion.

However, *Diplodiscus* is untenable as a Mollusc name, having been used by Diesing for a worm in 1850. Von Martens in 1899 revived a *nomen nudum* of Hartmann's *Spiralina* for the same group. This is not *Spiralina*, Chaster, 1900.

In the *Nautilus* for January, 1906, I have given some data for forgotten *Planorbis* names published by Benson in 1855, some of which modify my revision of 1905 in the Alaska book. One of these is *Omalodiscus*, Benson, apparently proposed as a substitute for the pre-occupied *Spirorbis*, Swainson, of which the type was *P. rotundatus*, Poiret. *Omalodiscus* in that case would take the place of my *Paraspira*.

These sections may not be worth much, but if I have sinned in adopting them it was in such good company as Swainson, Mörch, Von Martens, and Benson. If Poiret's species has got lost since Swainson's time I am sorry, but American students can hardly be expected to keep guard on European species, which should be herded by their compatriots.

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